

analog; transcriptional and translational regulatory sequences functional in said host cell operably linked to said polynucleotide; and a selectable marker.

38. The expression vector of claim 37 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease comprises SEQ ID No: 1.

39. The expression vector of claim 37 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or HCV NS3 domain protease active truncation analog has an internal sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 63.

40. The expression vector of claim 37 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or HCV NS3 domain protease active truncation analog has an internal sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 64.

41. The expression vector of claim 37 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or HCV NS3 domain protease active truncation analog has an internal sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 65.

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ant 42. The expression vector of claim 37 wherein said nucleotide further comprises a sequence encoding a fusion partner, linked to said HCV NS3 domain protease or said active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog to form a fusion protein upon expression.

43. The expression vector of claim 42 wherein said fusion partner is human superoxide dismutase.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary amendment prior to prosecution. Following entry of this amendment, claims 27-43 will be pending in this case.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to

charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 22300-2010005. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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